



Health Care **HEROES**

- [Home](#)
- [About HCH](#)
- [Nominations](#)
- [Sponsorships](#)
- [Award Categories](#)
- [Important Dates](#)
- [Ordering Tickets](#)
- [2006 Winners](#)
- [2005 Winners](#)
- [2004 Winners](#)
- [2003 Winners](#)
- [TDR Online](#)

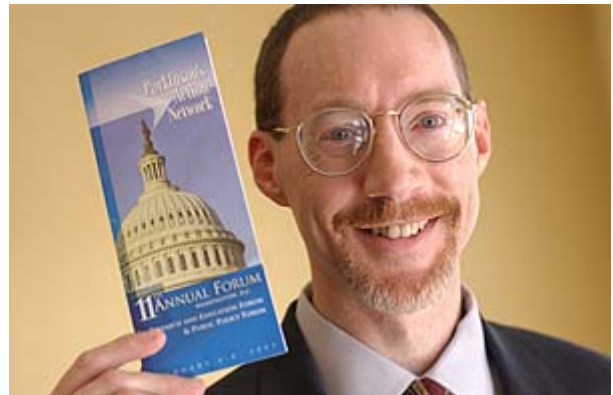


Dr. David S. Heydrick
Heydrick Neurocare LLC

**Advancements In Health Care
Honoree**

To say Dr. David S. Heydrick has been the victim of a cruelly ironic twist of fate is an understatement. To say he is addressing his circumstances with determination and dignity is an understatement, too.

In the summer of 2002, Heydrick had just established a neurology practice in Frederick, when the then 39-year-old father of two discovered slowed finger movements in his right hand. During the next year, he developed debilitating right-sided tremors, had difficulty writing, and experienced fatigue and pain.



Finally, after numerous tests, Heydrick was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, a painful neurodegenerative disorder for which there is no cure.

Running his private practice became progressively more difficult, partly because of superimposed symptoms of Lyme disease, which he deciphered and treated. Fortunately, a disability insurance policy obtained from agent Bob Paff in 2001 from Integrated Benefits Corp. saved Heydrick and his wife, Anne, from financial ruin. He now gives seminars on disability planning with Paff.

During his neuromuscular fellowship, Heydrick developed a new way to analyze muscular fatigue in stroke patients by using spectral analysis. Adapting this technique for use with Parkinson's patients has been discussed lately. Heydrick also became the Parkinson's Action Network's science advisor in January 2004.

"He has thrown himself into the community, demonstrating a selfless ability to care about the

larger issues which surround Parkinson's disease, including federal funding for research," said Parkinson's Action Network's Executive Director Amy Comstock. "Somehow, he is able to step back, recognize the irony of being a neurologist with Parkinson's and create from that a positive energy for the greater good."

Heydrick believes his most significant accomplishment so far is to be living with Parkinson's and that he recently won a battle against his tremor by undergoing Deep Brain Stimulation surgery.

"But," he said, "hopefully my most significant accomplishment is yet to come. Can we cure it? I believe we can."

- Mark Smith